

REMARKS

Minor corrections have been entered at pages 3 and 7 of the specification.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, particularly that part numbers 40 and 42 in Figure 1 are not described in the specification. A description of the indented section 40 and 42 of back wall 16 has been added to Page 5. This should not be regarded as new matter as the back wall is said to include at least one indented section of reduced thickness extending from near the top strap to near the bottom strap in claim 1 and claim 5 as filed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,305,899, Kaufhold. Claim 1 sets forth that the front wall of the yoke comprises a bottom section, a center section and a top section, each having a convex edge and extending between two side sections.

Kaufhold discloses a yoke 120 having front side walls 134 and 138, and a top strap 122 and a bottom strap 126. The front edges of top strap 122 and bottom strap 126 are shown to be convex, but no center section of the front wall is shown, as set forth in Claim 1.

Further, the back wall 132 of Kaufhold does not have an indented section of reduced thickness, as set forth in claim 1.

Claims 4-12 were rejected over Kaufhold in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,820, Barker et al. Barker et al. is relied on as showing a draft gear of resilient material between two coupler followers. However, independent claim 5 sets forth that the front wall of the yoke comprises a bottom section, a center section and a top section each having a laterally convex shape and extending between the two side sections.

Kaufhold discloses a yoke 120 having front side walls 134 and 138, and a top strap 122 and bottom strap 126. The front edges of top strap 122 and bottom strap 126 are shown to be convex, but no center section of the front wall is shown, as set forth in claim 5.

Further, the back wall 132 of Kaufhold does not have an indented section of reduced thickness, as set forth in claim 5.

For these reasons, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-12 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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